

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 02621 181314Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 ACDA-12 MCT-01 SAB-02 /083 W
-----057279 181317Z /50

O R 172235Z APR 78 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6599
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS PANAMA 2621

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PIN
SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT DENIES NEWS REPORT OF A CANAL ZONE
PLOT TO ATTACK PANAMA

1. ACAN-EFE NEWS AGENCY CARRIED THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE ON ITS
WIRES TODAY: QUOTE PANAMA CITY, 17 APR (ACAN-EFE)--LT. COL.
MANUEL ANTONIO NORIEGA, PANAMANIAN SECURITY CHIEF,
INFORMED A GROUP OF STUDENTS THAT A PLOT IS BEING PREPARED
IN THE CANAL ZONE TO ATTACK PANAMA, ACAN-EFE WAS TOLD TODAY.
ACAN-EFE WAS TOLD BY THE STUDENT LEADERS WHO WERE PRESENT
AT THE MEETING THAT THE REPORTED PLOT WAS BAPTISED WITH THE
NAME 'LUNA VERDE' (GREEN MOON) OR 'LUNA AZUL' (BLUE MOON).
IT WAS SAID THAT SEVERAL HUNDRED CUBAN MER-
CENARIES HAD BEEN GATHERED TOGETHER IN THE CANAL ZONE TO
CARRY OUT THE PLOT.
THE MEETING OF THE PANAMANIAN SECURITY CHIEF WITH STUDENT
LEADERS WAS HELD AT THE END OF LAST WEEK AND WAS KEPT SECRET
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UNTIL TODAY.
THE STUDENT LEADERS SAID THAT THE MEETING WAS HELD
IN ORDER TO REPORT THAT THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT WILL
USE ITS SECURITY FORCES IF THE STUDENTS ENGAGE
IN VIOLENCE IN THEIR CURRENT DRIVE OF REPUDIATION OF
THE TORRIJOS--CARTER TREATIES....UNQUOTE

2. COL. NORIEGE HAS OFFICIALLY DENIED THAT HE EVEN
ATTENDED THE MEETING WITH STUDENTS, MUCH LESS MADE
THESE REMARKS. HE ALSO DENIED THE ACCURACY OF THE
SUBSTANCE OF THE REPORT. MORIEGA HAS REPORTEDLY CALLED
ALL PANAMA PAPERS AND TV AND RADIO STATIONS AND INFORMED
THEM OF THE INACCURACY OF THIS REPORT. JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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